United Nations E/2007/89

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 September 2007

Original: English

Resumed substantive session of 2007
New York
Agenda item 13 (k)
Economic and environmental questions: cartography

Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-fourth session

(New York, 20 and 31 August 2007)

Summary

The twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, convened in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2003/294, was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 20 and 31 August 2007.

The present report describes the activities carried out at the session, and presents the major findings of the Group of Experts, with a primary focus on the importance of its work in supporting the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the essential contribution it continues to provide to Member States in the geographical information field, particularly in the context of natural-disaster preparedness and responding to humanitarian needs.

07-50714 (E) 091007

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Terms of reference	1	4
II.	Attendance	2	4
III.	Officers of the session	3	4
IV.	Opening of the session	4–5	4
V.	Adoption of the agenda	6–7	5
VI.	Reports of the working groups	8–25	5
	A. Toponymic terminology	8	5
	B. Toponymic training	9	5
	C. Country names	10	6
	D. Romanization systems	11–12	6
	E. Publicity and funding	13–15	6
	F. Exonyms	16–17	7
	G. Evaluation and implementation	18	7
	H. Pronunciation	19–20	7
	I. Toponymic data files and gazetteers	21–22	8
	J. Promotion of indigenous and minority group names	23	8
	K. Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors	24	8
	L. Task Team on Africa	25	8
VII.	Reports of the liaison officers	26–30	9
	A. International Cartographic Association	26	9
	B. International Council of Onomastic Sciences	27	9
	C. Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research	28	9
	D. Pan American Institute of Geography and History	29	10
	E. International Hydrographic Organization	30	10
VIII.	Organizational matters concerning the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names	31–33	10
IX.	Review of the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	34–35	10
X.	Election of officers	36–38	11
XI.	Planning for implementation of the recommendations of the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and working groups for future requirements	39–51	11
XII.	Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session	52	13

XIII. Other business 53–60 13

XIV. Conclusions and recommendations 61–62 14

Annexes

I. List of participating Divisions 16

II. List of documents 17

III. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names 19

I. Terms of reference

1. In pursuance of Economic and Social Council decision 2003/294, the Secretary-General invited the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names to convene its twenty-fourth session in New York on 20 and 31 August 2007.

II. Attendance

2. The session, held in conjunction with the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, was attended by 300 participants from 90 countries, representing all the 23 geographical/linguistic divisions of the Group of Experts (see annex I). In addition, 5 representatives of the Holy See, 29 observers and 14 participants from United Nations agencies, 4 international scientific organizations and 5 other participants were present. The complete list of the experts participating in the session and the Conference was issued in a separate document, available on the website of the secretariat of the Group of Experts at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ninth-uncsgn-list-of-docs.htm.

III. Officers of the session

3. The officers for the session were as follows:

Chairperson:
Helen Kerfoot (Canada)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Brahim Atoui (Algeria)
Jöern Sievers (Germany)

Rapporteurs:
Brian Goodchild (Australia)
Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig (Ireland)

IV. Opening of the session

4. The Chairperson opened the session and welcomed the experts. She then introduced Paul Cheung, Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who welcomed delegates on behalf of the United Nations, and spoke of the history and role of the Group of Experts and the preparations for its session and the Ninth Conference. He also reflected on the importance of geographical names and the accomplishments of the Group of Experts, referring to new technology and encouraging it to consider reviewing its working methods and agenda.

5. The Chairperson then commented briefly on the progress of standardization since the last session of the Group of Experts and outlined the value of geographical names in social and economic development. She also raised the question of geographical names standardization being a continuing issue, which, on a global scale, appeared to have no end in sight.

V. Adoption of the agenda

6. The provisional agenda (GEGN/24/1) was adopted as presented, with items 1 to 6 and 11 to be discussed at the 1st and 2nd meetings on 20 August and items 6 to 11 at its 3rd meeting on 31 August:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Reports of the working groups.
4. Reports of liaison officers.
5. Organizational matters concerning the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
6. Review of the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
7. Election of officers.
8. Planning for implementation of the recommendations of the Ninth Conference.
9. Working groups for future requirements.
10. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
11. Other business.

7. The Chairperson drew the attention of the Group of Experts to the draft organization of work for the session (GEGN/24/3 and GEGN/24/2/Add 1).

VI. Reports of the working groups

A. Toponymic terminology

8. Naftali Kadmon, the Convener of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology, presented its report (Working paper No. 1). The Working Group had met on three occasions since the previous Conference (in 2002, 2004 and 2006) and had made a number of changes to terms and their definitions. Particular attention had been given to the terms "exonym" and "endonym", and new terms were also under consideration. The secretariat agreed that a two- or three-page addendum, in six languages, to the *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*,[1] covering 2002-2007, could be produced and made available on the website of the Group of Experts.

B. Toponymic training

9. Ferjan Ormeling, the Convener of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy, reported, in Working paper No. 4, on the eight training courses since the

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. M.01.XVII.7.

previous Conference and the five offered by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History. Additional courses were currently being planned for Turkey and West Africa, and a number of organizations had also held national training events. He referred to recently published training materials and the work of the International Cartographic Association in the production of a toponymy module as part of a cartography web course. The Chairman of the Africa South Division expressed his thanks to the Convener for the course held in September 2006 in Maputo.

C. Country names

10. The Convener of the Working Group on Country Names, Leo Dillon, reported on the objectives of the Working Group in Working paper No. 6. He also referred to the recent accomplishments of the Working Group, especially the completion of the first Unicode-compliant list, which was used for the country names section of the *Technical Reference Manual for the Standardization of Geographical Names*,[2] published in 2007. The Working Group was planning the establishment of a website on country names, to be linked to that of the Group of Experts.

D. Romanization systems

11. Peeter Päll, the Convener of the Working Group on Romanization Systems, presented its report (Working paper No. 8). A meeting of the Working Group had been held in Tallinn, in October 2006, in which 35 experts from 9 countries participated. The meeting supported a resolution on the romanization of Ukrainian. A report of the meeting had been published in Information Bulletin No. 33 of the Group of Experts in March 2007.

12. The Working Group's website (www.eki.ee/wgrs) continued to be updated with new documents relating to its activities. In May 2007, the Arabic Division of the Group of Experts had adopted a resolution on the Beirut system of romanization of Arabic, to be submitted to the League of Arab States for dissemination to all Arab States for review and adoption.

E. Publicity and funding

13. The Convener of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding, David Munro, presented Working paper No. 9. He asked delegates to ensure that any items of promotion and media were referred to him, then reported on the joint meeting with the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, held in Honolulu in January 2007. A number of media and publicity activities since the twenty-third session were also outlined in the report: the publication of a promotional leaflet entitled "Geographical names as vital keys for accessing information in our digital world"; a press kit designed to promote geographical names issues; the *Technical Reference Manual for the Standardization of Geographical Names*; the *Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names*,[3] published in six languages; and

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.5.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XVII.7.

a promotional brochure in all official languages. These projects had all advanced, and continued United Nations funding in support of toponymic training courses had also been secured.

14. The representative of the French-speaking Division spoke of the need for publicity, particularly with regard to the new terms determined by the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology.

15. The Convener of the Working Group expressed his thanks to his Working Group colleagues and to the secretariat for the support he received during the Group's work.

F. Exonyms

16. The Convener of the Working Group on Exonyms, Peter Jordan, reported on the organizational aspects and achievements of the Working Group (Working paper No. 11). The Working Group had met five times since the Eighth Conference, and currently had 25 members from 16 countries. Meetings had been well attended and the Working Group maintained a website (accessible at www.zrc-sazu.si/ungegn/wge/exonyms.htm).

17. Achievements referred to by the Convener included the recent new definitions of "endonym" and "exonym", the book on exonyms published in 2007 in the series Viennese East European Studies and the proposal to include exonyms (cross-referenced to endonyms) in the database of the Working Group.

G. Evaluation and implementation

18. The Convener of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation, Ki-Suk Lee, reported on the activities of the Working Group since the twenty-third session, particularly the meeting held in Honolulu in January 2007 (Working paper No. 13). At that meeting, the current status of work and procedures of the Group of Experts and also the results of an evaluation survey undertaken at the Eighth Conference had been reviewed. The report also included some recommendations that had been submitted in preparation for the Ninth Conference and the twenty-fourth session.

H. Pronunciation

19. The Convener of the Working Group on Pronunciation, Dónall Mac Giolla Easpaig, reported on its activities (Working paper No. 14). The Working Group planned to include a request that all countries prepare national pronunciation guides, to be submitted to the Working Group, which could make them available to other users.

20. The Working Group recommended that the international standard for the pronunciation of sounds should be as represented in the International Phonetic Alphabet. The Convener noted that several national gazetteers, Sweden and Ireland for example, include guides to pronunciation of individual names in that script. In

response to a question, the Convener stated that no pronunciation guides had yet been published. The use of sound files was also discussed.

I. Toponymic data files and gazetteers

21. The report of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers (Working paper No. 15) was presented by a member of the Dutch- and German-speaking Division in the absence of the Convener of the Working Group, Randall Flynn. In its report, the Working Group referred to its membership, terms of reference and workplan, and provided details of its activities since the twenty-third session.

22. The Working Group had met twice at the Eighth Conference and in March 2007, in Madrid, in conjunction with a meeting of the EuroGeoNames reference group. The report provided details of issues discussed at the 2007 meeting, and also referred to the large membership of the Working Group, which indicated the high level of interest in its activities. The report concluded with a draft toponymic data exchange standard for further discussion and update by the Working Group.

J. Promotion of indigenous and minority group names

23. The Convener of the Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Names, William Watt, gave a verbal report for his Working Group, stating that a written report had been filed for the Conference as follow-up to resolution VIII/1.[4] Although the Working Group had not met, it had produced a summary report in response to the resolution. The Convener reported also on the possible future roles of the Working Group, to be discussed in more detail at its meetings during the Conference.

K. Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors

24. Working paper No. 5, presented by the Coordinator of Toponymic Guidelines, Isolde Hausner, indicated that 37 countries had published toponymic guidelines, 11 countries had presented updated versions at the Eighth Conference, 2 countries had presented updates at the twenty-second session and 4 more had presented updates at the twenty-third session. The Working paper also indicated that the *Manual for the National Standardization of Geographical Names*, which had been distributed at the twenty-third session, contained an article entitled "Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors, for international use", by Helen Kerfoot and Eeva Maria Narhi.

L. Task team on Africa

25. The Head of the task team on Africa, Brahim Atoui, reported on activities since the previous session, which included a training course on toponymy for

[4] *Report of the Eighth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names* (E/CONF.94/3), chap. III.

African countries, held in Tunisia, and attended by 70 students from 11 countries. He reported that some of the students had been sponsored by the United Nations Statistics Division. He indicated that a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of standardization of geographical names was planned and that sessions on geographical names in Africa had been requested for the conference of the International Geographical Union in Tunis in 2008. The Chairperson stressed the importance of the programme of the task team for African countries that did not have names authorities.

VII. Reports of the liaison officers

A. International Cartographic Association

26. The liaison officer for the International Cartographic Association, Mr. Ormeling, reported, in Working paper No. 2, that special sessions on place names had been held at the International Cartographic Conferences in Durban (2003), A Coruña (2005) and Moscow (2007). The Working paper also indicated that the Commission on Education and Training of the Association had added a module on toponymy to its web course on cartography.

B. International Council of Onomastic Sciences

27. The liaison officer for the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, Ms. Hausner, reported in Working paper No. 3 on the content of the most recently published volume of *Onoma, Journal of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences*, No. 39, edited by Botolv Helleland, which had name research and teaching as its central theme. She indicated the themes of future volumes: literary onomastics (No. 40); name theory (No. 41); urban toponymy (No. 42); commercial names (No. 43); and African onomastics (No. 44). The Working paper also reported that the Council board had created a terminology group to address the need for internationally consistent and accurate terms in onomastic science (see Working paper No. 3/Add.1). The first goal was to produce a multilingual dictionary of key onomastic terms. Approximately 80 terms, in English, French and German, had been presented at the twenty-second congress of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences in Pisa, Italy, in 2005; their inclusion on the Council website was planned.

C. Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

28. Working paper No. 7, presented by Mr. Sievers, the liaison officer for the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, reported on the Committee's activities. He pointed out that the Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica, published in 1998, was available on the web, and that it had been linked by the Australian Antarctic Data Centre to the Committee's map catalogue, so that Antarctic place names on any map could be listed. It was also reported that a search for scientific data could also be done through the Composite Gazetteer.

D. Pan American Institute of Geography and History

29. Lou Yost, acting liaison officer for the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, gave a short verbal report on the Institute's activities since the previous session and indicated that a more detailed report would be submitted to the Conference.

E. International Hydrographic Organization

30. Trent Palmer, on behalf of the liaison officer for the International Hydrographic Organization, Randall Flynn, gave a short verbal report on activities since the previous session concerning undersea feature names, and names of oceans and seas. A written report would be presented to the Conference.

VIII. Organizational matters concerning the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

31. The Chairperson outlined a number of changes to the organization of the Conference, in accordance with recommendations made by the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation and in agreement with the Statistics Division. She drew attention to the exhibition and panels presenting various aspects of the work of the Group of Experts, past and present. She also indicated that the Conference agenda would include special presentations dealing with a number of topics, including United Nations data needs; Google Earth; the task team on Africa; the Geographical Names Database of the Group of Experts; and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Chairperson also indicated that four workshops were planned during the lunch period, dealing with web training; names authorities and legislation; regional databases and gazetteers; and toponymic data exchange.

32. The Chairperson referred back to Working paper No. 13, in which the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation had proposed that presentation of country reports submitted by the deadline should be limited to five minutes. Also, the use of technical committees in the past eight Conferences had been reviewed; four committees were now recommended for the Ninth Conference. The implementation of resolutions and the future of working groups had also been discussed.

33. The Chairperson indicated that over 200 documents had been received for the Conference, including almost 50 country reports. In the case of country and division reports, she indicated that it would not be possible to allow time for the presentation of individual documents, but that a synopsis of them would be presented in two separate papers.

IX. Review of the statute of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

34. No material had been received for discussion at this time.

35. Based on the decision of 20 August of the Group of Experts, the Chairperson indicated that the Portuguese-speaking Division would be added to the annex of the statute of the Group of Experts. Any other items pertaining to the statute would be referred to the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation for consideration.

X. Election of officers

36. The members of the outgoing bureau expressed their pleasure at having worked with the Group of Experts, the bureau and the secretariat during their terms of office.

37. Following statements by representatives of a number of divisions, the Group of Experts unanimously agreed to elect the following members to its bureau for the next term of office:

Chairperson:
Helen Kerfoot (Canada)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Brahim Atoui (Algeria)
Ferjan Ormeling (Netherlands)

Rapporteurs:
William Watt (Australia)
Leo Dillon (United States of America)

38. The Chairperson welcomed the new officers, all of whom made brief comments, and she acknowledged the valuable service of those who had just retired from the bureau.

XI. Planning for implementation of the recommendations of the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and working groups for future requirements

39. The Chairperson introduced the new resolutions,[5] asking for comment from the floor, and where appropriate assigning follow-up of resolutions to particular groups.

Resolutions IX/1 and IX/2
Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Organization of the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the African continent

40. Resolutions IX/1 and IX/2 will be followed up by the secretariat and the Chairperson.

[5] See E/CONF.98/136, sect. II.

Resolution IX/3
Creation of a Portuguese-speaking Division

41. The Chairperson welcomed the newly created Portuguese-speaking Division.

Resolution IX/4
Geographical names as cultural heritage

42. Resolution IX/4 is recommended for action by individual countries and UNESCO.

Resolution IX/5
Promotion of the recording and use of indigenous, minority and regional language group geographical names

43. The Convener of the Working Group on the Promotion of Indigenous and Minority Group Names agreed that the Working Group would follow up on resolution IX/5. He noted that the Group had met in New York to discuss the resolution, and would now change its name to the "Working Group on the Promotion of the Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names".

Resolution IX/6
Geographical names database of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

44. It was generally agreed that at this time a new working group would not be set up; instead, the immediate work to be undertaken by the secretariat would be coordinated through the Chairperson and the bureau, together with conveners of appropriate working groups. The coordination process could be reviewed at the next session of the Group of Experts.

Resolution IX/7
Dissemination of information concerning the origin and meaning of geographical names

45. At this time, the topic covered by resolution IX/7 is a question for individual countries to address.

Resolutions IX/8 and IX/9
Implementation of romanization systems by sponsoring countries

Romanization of Hebrew

46. The Convener of the Working Group on Romanization indicated that it would follow up on resolutions IX/8 and IX/9 and monitor their implementation for the Group of Experts.

Resolution IX/10
Support for training and publications

47. The secretariat, together with the Chairperson and the bureau, agreed to follow up on resolution IX/10.

48. The Chairperson invited working groups to provide brief updates on meetings they had held during the Conference.

49. Mr. Kadmon, the Convener of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology reported on its meeting and indicated that he had stepped down as Convener, a position he had held for 18 years. The Chairperson, on behalf of the Group of Experts, thanked Mr. Kadmon for his active participation and his stalwart efforts for the publication of the *Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names*. Staffan Nyström was welcomed as the new Convener.

50. Brief presentations on meetings and future plans were also made by the Conveners of the Working Groups on Romanization Systems, Country Names, Publicity and Funding, Evaluation and Implementation, Exonyms, Pronunciation, Training Courses in Toponymy, and Promotion of the Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names. Caroline Burgess reported on behalf of the Convener of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers. The Head of the Task Team on Africa also reported.

51. The Chairperson encouraged all those planning meetings to look for joint opportunities and to keep the secretariat and the Chairperson informed of potential dates to avoid conflicting schedules.

XII. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session

52. During the Conference, new agendas for both the Tenth Conference and the twenty-fifth session of the Group of Experts were prepared by an ad hoc committee. Mr. Sievers, an outgoing Vice-Chairman and representative of the Group of Experts on the committee, presented the new proposed provisional agenda and noted the changes from previous sessions. At its third meeting, on 31 August, the Group of Experts adopted the provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session planned for the first half of 2009 (six working days), as orally amended. As indicated in resolution IX/2 of the Ninth Conference, efforts would be made to hold that session at the United Nations facilities in Nairobi. As noted by the secretariat, Geneva might be an alternative location for the session.

XIII. Other business

Creation of a Portuguese-speaking Division

53. Working paper No. 12, presented by the Africa South Division, outlined the benefits of the creation of a Portuguese-speaking Division for the eight Portuguese-speaking countries, namely Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor-Leste. The report noted that countries might belong to more than one division, so that the creation of a Portuguese-speaking Division would not prevent the participation of a country in another division.

54. Working paper No. 10, submitted by the Latin America Division, outlined the background and discussions relating to the need for a Portuguese-speaking division.

55. The proposal for the creation of a Portuguese-speaking division was supported by verbal contributions from the French-speaking Division, the Africa Central Division and the Arabic Division.

56. The Chairperson explained that according to the statutes, this was a matter for the Group of Experts to decide. She noted that no opposition to the proposal had been received and declared that the Portuguese-speaking Division had been created. She said that a resolution based on the draft provided in Working paper No. 10 would be put to the Conference to acknowledge that fact.

57. The Chairperson invited liaison officers to indicate their willingness to continue in those roles. The liaison officers for the International Cartographic Association and for the International Hydrographic Organization were reconfirmed. A replacement for the liaison officer with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research will be sought and the liaison with the Pan American Institute of Geography and History will be confirmed shortly.

58. The Chairperson gave the floor to the Chairpersons of Divisions to report on any updates concerning activities during the Conference. Short reports were made by representatives of the Dutch and German-speaking Division; the Norden Division; the French-speaking Division; the East Central and South-East Europe Division; the Portuguese-speaking Division; the Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division; the Latin America Division; the Baltic Division; the United States of America-Canada Division; the Romano-Hellenic Division; the United Kingdom Division; the Celtic Division; the Asia East Division (other than China); and the Africa West Division.

59. Working groups and divisions were encouraged by the Chairperson to provide information on their activities for inclusion in the next Group of Experts Bulletin for later in 2007, and to provide new contact information to the secretariat of the Group of Experts for inclusion on its website.

60. The Chairperson thanked the United Nations staff and all those involved in the preparation and running of the Conference and the session of the Group of Experts for the successful accomplishment of the work.

XIV. Conclusions and recommendations

61. The session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, held one day before and one day after the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, achieved the following goals:

(a) The presentation of reports by the 10 working groups, the Coordinator of Toponymic Guidelines and the task team for Africa, designated to follow up the resolutions of the Eighth Conference;

(b) The discussion of organizational matters for the Ninth Conference, including questions of the technical committees required, and new proposals for consideration of country and division reports;

(c) The establishment of the new Portuguese-speaking Division to encourage the work on geographical names standardization in the eight countries using Portuguese at a national level;

(d) The presentation of reports by Group of Expert liaison officers with international organizations, and the confirmation or reappointment of officers for the next five years;

(e) The election of the Chairperson of the Group of Experts and other bureau members to direct the work of the Group until the Tenth Conference;

(f) The planning of working groups and other processes to address the resolutions of the Ninth Conference;

(g) The presentation of reports by geographical/linguistic divisions and working groups of the Group of Experts that met during the Ninth Conference in New York;

(h) The recommendation that the twenty-fifth session of the Group of Experts be held in the first half of 2009;

(i) The steps taken to promote and improve communication among experts and with users of geographical names around the world, for example by widening the scope of the Group of Experts website, planning the Group of Experts Bulletin (produced twice annually), assuring further development of the geographical names database and provision of funds for training and publications, and discussing ongoing improvements for the organization of future sessions of the Group of Experts.

62. The conclusions and recommendations specific to the content of geographical names standardization are included in the resolutions and report of the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (E/CONF.98/136).

Annex I

List of participating Divisions

Africa Central Division

Africa East Division

Africa South Division

Africa West Division

Arabic Division

Asia East Division (other than China)

Asia South-East and Pacific South-West Division

Asia South-West Division (other than Arabic)

Baltic Division

Celtic Division

China Division

Dutch and German-speaking Division

East Central and South-East Europe Division

Eastern Europe, Northern and Central Asia Division

East Mediterranean Division (other than Arabic)

French-speaking Division

India Division

Latin America Division

Norden Division

Portuguese-speaking Division

Romano-Hellenic Division

United Kingdom Division

United States of America-Canada Division

Annex II

List of documents

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
GEGN/24/1	Provisional agenda (submitted by the secretariat of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	2
GEGN/24/2	Status and Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (submitted by the secretariat)	6
GEGN/24/3	Draft Organization of Work (submitted by the secretariat)	
WP.1	Report of the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology for the period 2002-2007 (submitted by the Convener of the Working Group)	3
WP.2	Report of the liaison officer with the International Cartographic Association 2002-2007 (submitted by the liaison officer for the Association)	4
WP.3 and Add.1	Onoma 39: International Council of Onomastic Sciences Terminology List (submitted by the liaison officer for the Council)	4
WP.4	Report of the Convener of the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy 2002-2007 (submitted by the Convener of the Working Group)	3
WP.5	Toponymic Guidelines for Map Editors and Other Editors: status report (submitted by the Coordinator of the Toponymic Guideline)	3
WP.6	Report of the Working Group on Country Names (submitted by the Convener of the Working Group)	3
WP.7	Report on the liaison of the Group of Experts with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (submitted by the liaison officer for the Committee)	4
WP.8	Report by the Convener of the Working Group on Romanization Systems (submitted by the Convener of the Working Group)	3
WP.9	Report of the Working Group on Publicity and Funding (submitted by the Convener of the Working Group	3

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
WP.10	Proposal to create the Portuguese Language Division within the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (and proposed resolution) (submitted by IBGE, Brazil)	11
WP.11	Report of the Working Group on Exonyms (submitted by the Convener of the Working Group)	3
WP.12	Towards the creation of a Portuguese-speaking division of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (submitted by Mozambique)	11
WP.13	Report of the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation (submitted by the Convener of the Working Group)	3
WP.14	Report of the Working Group on Pronunciation (submitted by the Convener of the Working Group)	3
WP.15	Report of the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers for the period 2006-2007 (submitted by the Working Group)	3

Annex III

Provisional agenda for the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report of the Chairperson.
4. Report of the secretariat of the Group of Experts.
5. Reports of the divisions.
6. Reports of the liaison officers and international organizations.
7. Task team on Africa.
8. Implementation of resolutions and activities relating to the Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation.
9. Activities relating to the Working Group on Training Courses in Toponymy.
10. Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers.
11. Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Terminology.
12. Activities relating to the Working Group on Romanization Systems.
13. Activities relating to the Working Group on Country Names.
14. Activities relating to the Working Group on Publicity and Funding.
15. Activities relating to the Working Group on Exonyms.
16. Activities relating to the Working Group on Pronunciation.
17. Activities relating to the Working Group on the Promotion of the Recording and Use of Indigenous, Minority and Regional Language Group Geographical Names.
18. Toponymic guidelines for map editors and other editors.
19. Other toponymic issues.
20. Preparation for the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.
21. Provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Group of Experts.
22. Adoption of the report.